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Checking out to check out



photo by Airman Laszlo Babocsi

Staff Sgt. Michael Whipple, 36th Airlift Squadron crew chief, prepares one of the 374th Airlift Wing's C-130 Hercules for flight so it could evacuate last week. The wing's tankers made the trek to avoid possible damage from Typhoon Mawar which hit the base Aug. 25. The 374th Operations Group commander and 374th Airlift Wing commander must decide whether or not to evacuate the planes any time a severe storm or natural disaster are posed to strike the base.

Airlifters rally during relief effort exercise

By Capt. Rich Essary
 Headquarters Pacific Air Forces

When a tsunami devastated the Pacific region Dec. 26, 2004, Team Yokota was called upon to help provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, or HA/DR, for thousands of people.

Airlifters from 16 Pacific Rim nations gathered Aug. 21 to 26 to train for any future calls like the tsunami's Operation Unified Assistance. Among them were two 374th Airlift Wing C-130 Hercules, 36th Airlift Squadron aircrews, and Airmen from the 374th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Held in Udon Thani, Thailand, Pacific Air Rally 2005 included a seminar, discussions and mock airlift operations.

The Airmen along with the airlift representatives from other countries played out a simulated scenario where a typhoon struck the coastal region of Thailand. Participants had to role-play command positions, medical support personnel, and non-governmental agencies, all of which are involved in real relief efforts.

Capt. Keith Ensor, Hercules pilot with the 36th AS, said that each country learned something from one another during the exercise. "In the event of a future tsunami or disaster relief effort, we will have already established relationships with the countries we are likely to work with," he explained.

According to Master Sgt. Brian Anderson, 374th AMXS production supervisor, the concept of interoperability is one key to successful HA/DR efforts. He and his team of 18 maintainers played a vital role in keep-

ing the aircraft sky-worthy during the exercise.

"Working together with the different countries is a good thing," he said. "If we have to help in future relief, the relationships will already exist."

Senior Airman Patrick VanTattenhove, crew chief with the 374th AMXS, said he agrees. "It's good because we can work, watch and learn from each other," he explained. "Everyone worked hard and pitched in to get the mission done."

During the mock airlift operations and exercise, Capt. Jake Smith, 36th Airlift Squadron, and Capt. Corey Strong, 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron, got to share their first-hand experiences in the tsunami's Operation Unified Assistance.

As a Hercules pilot during OUA, Captain Smith said, "It was gratifying to put my training to use by helping out others in need. My effort made a huge impact in helping people. It was amazing."

"Being able to sit down and talk with other countries about their experiences was beneficial," he added.

Captain Strong said that, "As an installation deployment officer, I have to know how to prioritize as well as who and what to send to support a relief effort. The exchange was a tremendous help and provided me with a big-picture perspective."

Among the countries that participated in the exercise were: Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Japan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Thailand and the United States.

Teens to 'expect the unexpected' at conference tonight

By Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas
 Editor

If Yokota High School senior Marcel Gadsden had to describe tonight's teen conference, he would say, "Expect the unexpected."

With two years in the making, the teen conference, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Taiyo Recreation Center, is a unique event.

Mr. Gadsden said that the idea for the conference came to him when he started noticing the struggles that fellow classmates have been faced with.

"There are lots of students out there that have a tough time talking about their problems or they want to do the right thing but can't," he explained. "Some students don't even know that they do have problems."

"This production is meant to show them what they are going through in a dramatic and comedic way, and give them hope."

The 18-year-old student began writing and producing the teen conference's play and music when he was 16 years old. He said he talked with numerous other students about the issues

and concerns that they had in their lives.

"I found that students need to be more aware of their environment," Mr. Gadsden said. "What you put in comes out, so you have to be aware of where you are at and what you are doing in order to make the choice to do the right thing."

"The production began as a serious one but it ended up being a dramatic comedy," he said. "There will be live music and singing also."

The teen conference, which includes 26 people in the produc-

tion and it's crew, looks to give students and community members inspiration and encouragement, Mr. Gadsden said.

"The support of my family has been so important in this," he said, explaining that often times writing the play and music took both daylight and moonlight hours to complete.

Base organizations including services squadron here, U.S. Forces-Japan, and the base teen center also provided invaluable support to making the conference a reality, he said.

Adults and children ages 10

and up are invited to see the production, which is also being recorded and created into DVDs.

Camp Zama and Atsugi are organizing a trip for its students and community to attend the teen conference also.

Mr. Gadsden, who is pursuing a career in directing and music, said he is excited about the production, and would like to organize and create more productions for his fellow classmates and community members.

For more information, e-mail j4music77@yahoo.com.

ORI countdown: 191 days

AIR FORCE BALL

Sept. 24 at the Taiyo Recreation Center

Tickets on sale at the YCC:

◇ Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

◇ Sept. 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 4 to 7 p.m.

◇ Sept. 19 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Annual CFC program kicks off soon

Community members encouraged to donate money to organizations, causes

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The 2005 - 2006 Combined Federal Campaign runs for six consecutive weeks Sept. 1 through Dec. 15 for bases within the continental United States. The overseas CFC campaign will be conducted for six consecutive weeks from Oct. 1 through Dec. 15.

Exact dates and campaign goals are established in each geographic area by the Local Federal Coordinating Committee and are available through the installation CFC project officer.

Traditionally Yokota's campaign runs from October through December.

The CFC was established in 1961 and is the largest workplace charity campaign in the country.

This annual fall fund-raising drive allows nearly 4 million federal employees and military personnel

to contribute to thousands of local and national nonprofit organizations.

Last year, federal employees and military personnel reached into their pockets to donate a record setting \$257 million to the CFC. Contributions can be in cash, check or by payroll deduction.

In 2004, Yokota dramatically increased its participation rate and total donations. Participation went from 37 percent of potential members donating in 2003 to 58 percent giving in 2004. This boosted the base's average total donations to \$50,000 more. These leaps were

made with approximately 400 less personnel than in 2003.

On average, one in four Federal employees or their dependents will benefit from the CFC charities this year alone, according to CFC officials. Donors may designate which charity, or charities, receives their money by filling out a pledge card.

Local CFC project officers have more information. The CFC website is at <http://www.opm.gov/cfc>.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News. Information added by 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs)

PACAF Band reaches out to more countries, cultures

By Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas
Editor

The Air Force's premier band in the Pacific can't get enough of its musical mission.

This year the band has reached three times more cultures than it has in a decade thanks to an increased budget and implementing money-saving ideas.

"We can now target our influence on countries and cultures where a strong relationship needs to be built up," said Capt. Daniel Price, band commander. "Music can do this by crossing barriers like language, history, and age."

Recently the band sent 22 members to northeastern Australia for the first time since 1995. Both these visits were in celebration of Victory in the Pacific Day.

he band recently returned from the venture to northeastern Australia to help commemorate the 60th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific Day. During the trip, 22 band members played alongside the country's premier 1st Royal Australian Regimental Band for hundreds of World War II veterans.

"It felt almost like we were being invited back home," said Captain Price. "People were making encouraging, heart-felt welcomes and comments when we paraded into the center of Townsville."

Only a few weeks prior, the band sent its members to Thailand for a two-week journey that took them from the king's palace to numerous local universities and Royal Thai Air Force bases.

The band plans on raising the number of cultures touched by its music by another 150 percent in 2006.

"We are looking at trips to Indonesia, Bangladesh, Singapore and Vietnam," said the band commander. "It is a very exciting time for us to see the plans and visions that we had a few years ago become reality."

He explained that cost-saving measures like prepositioned sound equipment at Osan Air Base, Korea; Kadena Air Base, Japan; and Andersen Air Force Base, Guam

"We can now target our influence on countries and cultures where a strong relationship needs to be built up. Music can do this by crossing barriers like language, history and age."

Capt. Daniel Price

Band of the Pacific-Asia commander

have saved the band approximately \$20,000 per a potential trip in annual funding. The equipment weighs more than two tons, and rental equipment is an expensive alternative, he said.

This measure coupled with additional funding from Headquarters Pacific Air Forces has expanded the band's

scope and the Air Force's influence in the region, making the country and culture increases possible, said Captain Price.

Sexual assault prevention film must-see for Airmen: WASHINGTON – A new training video recently distributed to the Air Force through vice wing commanders is required viewing for all Airmen.

All Airmen must view the new video, entitled "Targeting Sexual Assault," by Nov. 1.

It is part of a larger Air Force campaign to educate Airmen about the realities of sexual assault, the prevention responsibilities of every Airman, and the efforts the Air Force is making to enhance prevention and response capabilities, said Charlene Bradley, who led the Air Force task force review and program development.

NEWS AROUND THE AIR FORCE & PACAF

For these stories and more, visit Air Force Link at www.af.mil

CSAF change-of-command ceremony set for today: SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) – The swearing in of Gen. T. Michael Moseley as the Air Force's 18th chief of staff will be broadcast live today from Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

The live broadcast is scheduled for 10 a.m. EDT and will be available on the Pentagon Channel and on Air Force Link at <http://www.af.mil/csaf/player.html>

The ceremony, which signifies a change of Air Force leaders, will feature the retirement of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper after 39 years of service.

Certain officers eligible for CJTF credit: RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) – Active-duty officers in the grades of major and above, and some captains, are eligible to receive joint duty credit for deployments because of a recently expanded list of approved operations.

The fiscal 2002 National Defense Authorization Act and Title 10 United States Code Section 664 authorizes cumulative joint-duty credit. It only applies to officers who deployed for at least 90 continuous days to an approved combined joint task force headquarters staff. Visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/jom/ for more information. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

AD

AF takes new view on religious beliefs

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Air Force officials announced the release of interim guidance on free exercise of religion Aug. 29.

Air Force Directorate of Personnel officials issued the interim guidelines after careful consideration of the U.S. Constitution, laws and military necessity. The guidelines were developed after a review at the U.S. Air Force Academy indicated a need for additional guidance on the issue of religious respect throughout the Air Force.

"A crucial part of our vision is that the religious diversity we share as Americans is a strength that sets us apart from many other nations," said Lt. Gen. Roger A. Brady, Air Force deputy chief of staff for personnel. "In a world where many nations are torn apart by religious strife, we must understand that our ability to stand together – those who represent many religions shoulder-to-shoulder with those who claim no religion – is a great strength.

"Each of us represents the government of the United States and the Air Force," he said. "Our actions must be consistent with the Constitution we are sworn to protect and defend, and with the Air Force core values."

The interim guidelines are based on the following principles, some of which are listed below:

✓ We are sworn to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. In taking this oath we pledge our personal compliance with the Constitution's protections for free exercise of religion and prohibitions against governmental establishment of religion.

✓ We will accommodate free exercise of religion and other personal beliefs, as well as freedom of expression, except as must be limited by military necessity. We will not officially endorse or establish religion -- either one specific religion, or the idea of religion over nonreligion.

✓ Our core values support and are consistent with our constitutional obligations. Our integrity demands that we respect others and that we live up to our oaths. Service before self demands respect for the Constitution, our Air Force and each other, and an understanding that in the military our service begins with a commitment to our responsibilities, not only our rights. Commitment to a climate in which individuals of diverse beliefs form an effective team is essential to achieving excellence.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

"Sorry, we only like people who wear hair accessories"



photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Smith

(From left) Jordan Park, Kaitlyn Simmons, and Samantha Smith lay down their fashion rules to Grace Patterson during a skit at the contemporary protestant service at the East Chapel Sunday. The Protestant Youth of the Chapel's junior high school and high school youth groups hosted the service, providing musical, dancing and acting performances that focused on the group's purpose and vision. The junior high school youth group meets in the building behind the Traditional Chapel every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The high school youth group meets every Monday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Community members who are interested in volunteering in the group can contact the chapel at 225-7009.

AD

Keep appointments with mountains

MDG commander works to conquer heights with vision, purpose

By Col. Mark Presson
374th Medical Group commander

It seemed like a great idea. The big beautiful mountain beckoned. I knew it would be quite an achievement if I was able to climb to the summit. "Heck, why not?," I thought. Without much preparation, I set out early one morning for the base camp. As I drove closer to the traditional starting point, the mountain began to look very much larger and steeper than from farther away. On a closer look, the beautiful mountain was transformed into sharp jagged rocks and trees bent over from the harsh winds and long winters. "That is okay, I can do it," I thought. I set off on the path. The first 3,000 feet went quickly. 15,000 more feet to go. Other than being slightly winded, I was none the worse for wear. I pushed on. The path narrowed and the smooth path became rough and slippery. I pressed on but I began to wonder why I was putting myself through this needless exercise. As I climbed on, my muscles

began to ache, the rain came and my morale slipped. Rather than straining to see the summit, I spent most of my time looking down at my feet and to the sunny valley from which I had started my climb.

I never made it to the top of that mountain. The mountain conquered me.

Some time later, and after a move to a new location, another mountain began to look very appealing. As I studied the mountain, I became more and more interested in what was at the top. I carefully studied the various routes to the top and talked to others who had experience climbing it. Over time, I became more focused.

Other endeavors looked less interesting and my growing commitment was to conquer this mountain. One day, after much preparation, I began the climb.

It wasn't easy. In fact on the first attempt, I slipped and fell. My hurt back sidelined me for several months. But I never lost sight of my goal.

Frequently, I looked out the window at the summit and committed myself anew to attaining the top.

In late summer, I was ready again. The trip to the top, 24,650 feet took four days. An uncommon snowstorm in the second day made the way treacherous. Then the sun came out, melted the snow and turned the mountain into a sheet of ice.

Preparation meant I had the right tools. When the going got rough, and that was many times, I looked at the summit, and reaffirmed that I must reach the top. My vision kept me on target, and I conquered that mountain.

What is your mountain?

Life has many mountains of all different sizes ... personal relationships, family, professional military education, degrees, raising the kids, personal success, success of the unit.

Some we have the choice of conquering.

Others suddenly present themselves and are not optional, such as losing a loved one.

They must be scaled. Some individuals never select

a big mountain. They are the toughest to scale but bring the biggest rewards. Lots of small mountains mean "busy" but in the end no significant accomplishments.

One critical element to scaling big mountains is vision. Vision gives us purpose. Ralph Waldo Emerson said: "Where there is no vision a people perish." Vision unified a country divided by slavery, brought us many medical marvels and helps individuals be all they can be. Failure to have a defined vision results in lack of focus and perseverance. Vision gives us the ability to successfully weather the storms of life and attain goals and benefits that come from scaling the big mountains.



What is your vision? Map out your vision today. Test them to make sure you have them right. Pick a big mountain. Then launch out on your journey. May your climb be meaningful and your rewards abundant.



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Deadlines

The deadline for articles, briefs and classifieds is Wednesday the week before publication. For holidays, the deadline is one day earlier.

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The Action Line is your direct line to me. Use it if you have questions or comments about Yokota, which couldn't be resolved by your chain of command first. When you send an e-mail, please include your name and phone number so you can be reached if more information is needed.



Col. Scott Goodwin
374th Airlift Wing commander

Today I experienced a disturbing incident involving a senior airman as I was leaving the base post office. As I opened the door, I had to step in front of this Airman as he tried to push his way through the door. He was clearly frustrated because he had to wait for us both to leave before going inside. Unfortunately, this is only the latest in what seems to be a fairly routine occurrence among male Air Force servicemembers: lack of consideration for others. I am truly disappointed by this widespread pattern of behavior.

I am disappointed to hear about these incidents and the sheer lack of consideration shown by these Airmen. It's unfortunate that the behavior of a few reflects so poorly on the entire base population, and specifically the Air Force in this case. This goes back to one of the fundamentals of General Wright's philosophy of unwavering professionalism – moral commitment – or "consistently doing the right thing, both in terms of what society expects of us, as well as

what we should expect of ourselves when we look in the mirror." Most of us know the right thing to do. Let's help the one percent that don't.

The Air Force has gotten a good handle on public conduct of their military members, but I'm noticing a disturbing trend among youths here. In the last week, my spouse has been subjected to whistles, cat-calls and overall quite undesirable behaviors from groups of youths on this base three times. In none of these cases was she acting provocatively. If my wife cannot go freely about on this base without being subject to youthful stupidity of this nature, then what can I or anyone else do about it? This behavior among our youths is shameful and ridiculous, and needs to stop now.

Thank you for bringing this issue to my attention. Any form of harassment is unacceptable on this base or anywhere else. As parents, we all know that it's our responsibility to teach our children the proper way to behave. While we cannot watch them every minute of the day, we rely on the lessons we teach our children to guide their actions. When that fails, the information we're provided by other parents and residents helps us know when children are misbehaving.

During the last year, there have been a number of incidents involving our children both on and off base. I've made it a point during my command here to address those issues with parents. On August 31 at 5:30 p.m. in Yokota High School's gymnasium, I spoke to all parents of the school's students about the upcoming year and provided them with my expectations for maintaining a healthy environment for our families at Yokota.

These meetings will be held on a regular basis to ensure parents know what type of behavior we expect of their children at an overseas installation. I believe that making Yokota a great place to live takes the involvement of parents in the everyday lives of their children. Without it, we would hear of more incidents like the one you described.

DUI Prevention

Aug. 3 – Aug. 23	0
Total DUIs in August	0
Total in 2005	6

Punishment

.049 or less = car parked for 12 hours
.05-.079 = 6 months walking
.081-.149 = 1 year walking
0.15 or greater = 2 years walking

Don't
drink and drive.
Call 225-RIDE!

Fuji Flyer's

Back-To-School

Edition

YHS revved up, rolling into year

Renovated building, classes among changes

By Richard Schlueter
Yokota High School

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Yokota High School allow me to welcome you to the start of a new school year.

Like last school year, this one promises to be very exciting.

Many members of the faculty spent a portion of their summer taking classes in preparation for teaching new course offerings while the staff spent their summer preparing the school for the return of the student body.

In the spring of 2004, the Northern Central Accreditation visiting team validated that YHS is an excellent learning community. This is due to the combined energy of the faculty, staff, students, parents and the Yokota community.

A smaller team will return to the high school during the spring of 2006 to review the status report and to confirm that student achievement is improving.

There are a few changes at the high school for this year.

We welcome four new faculty members joining us from the states or from other DoDDS schools.

Alethea Daniels will be teaching language arts and yearbook productions.

Patrick McDonald will join the math department.

Vince Szilagyi joins us from the Misawa schools as our educational technologist.

Mr. Sousa will be completing his student teaching with current YHS

teacher, Ms. Bonnie Seeley, during the fall.

Popular course offerings YHS this year include college entrance preparation, contemporary issues, video productions, environmental science, anthropology, sociology, honors language arts, honors world history and yearbook production.

To help all of the students succeed we offer the math labs for algebra and geometry, and reading labs and AVID classes. Please see the counselors for more information.

It has been a busy summer preparing the buildings for the projected 440 students in August. The most extensive project was the electrical upgrade throughout the school, which was undertaken to better address the students' needs. Many less ambitious projects were completed as well.

New graduation requirements for all DoDEA schools were put in place.

Beginning with freshman class of 2004-2005 the number

of credits needed to graduate is 26. The introduction to algebra and introduction to geometry classes are no longer offered. The first level of math is algebra.

For students who may need the added

support, it is suggested that they schedule the appropriate math lab to be taken concurrently. Beginning with last year's freshman anticipating graduating from a DoDEA school, the student must have at least a 2.0 grade-point average. Make an appointment with the counselors for further details.

The School Advisory Council meets the second Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m.

The school's Parent-Teacher Organization meets on the fourth Tuesday starting at 5 p.m.

All meetings are held in school information center. The public is invited.

Fall sports are in full swing. Volleyball clinics have been conducted the past two weeks in preparation for the tryouts. The football team was very impressive in the exhibition game played on August 19. A huge thanks to all who helped make the game possible.

If your child is interested in participating in any of the fall

sports it is not too late. Call the school for more information. Remember that a completed physical form must be on file at the school before a student may practice.

"In the spring of 2004, the Northern Central Accreditation visiting team validated that Yokota High School is an excellent learning community. This is due to the combined energy of the faculty, staff, students, parents and the Yokota community."

Richard Schlueter

Yokota High School principal

School days, school days ...

Aug. 30 – First day of school
First quarter begins

Sept. 5 – Labor Day (no school)

Oct. 7 – In-service day (half day)

Oct. 10 – Columbus Day (no school)

Oct. 14 – Educator's Day (no school)

Nov. 3 – Last day of first quarter

Nov. 4 – Teacher work day (no school)

Nov. 7 – First day of second quarter

Nov. 11 – Veteran's Day (no school)

Nov. 24 – Thanksgiving (no school)

Nov. 25 – PACAF family day (no school)

Dec. 19 – Beginning of winter break

Jan. 2 – School resumes after winter break

Jan. 13 – In-service day (half day)

Jan. 16 – MLK Jr. Day (no school)

Jan. 26 – Last day of second quarter

Jan. 27 – Teacher work day (no school)

Jan. 30 – First day of third quarter

Feb. 17 – In-service day (half day)

Yokota DoDD schools' 2005 & 2006 calendar

Feb. 20 – Presidents' Day (no school)

April 6 – Last day of third quarter

April 7 – Teacher work day (no school)

April 10 – Spring Break begins

April 17 – School resumes after

Spring Break

April 28 – In-service day (half day)

May 29 – Memorial Day (no school)

June 15 – Teacher work day

June 16 – Last day of school

Safety Patrol

School is back in session and children will be walking, riding bikes, and riding on school buses.

Students and parents should keep in mind safety concerns associated with going back to school.

✓ **Walking and biking to school:**

Even if a child doesn't ride the school bus, they still need to protect themselves and be careful about getting to and from school. Here are a few basic safety tips to follow:

--Parents need to work out a route to school with children. Choose the quickest way with the fewest street crossings and use intersections with crossing guards.

--If a child bikes or skates to school make sure they always wear a helmet.

--Teach children to cross a street at the crosswalk and to look "right, left, and right."

✓ **Riding the school bus:** School bus transportation is safe. Even so, in 2004 in the United States, approximately 26 students were killed and another 9,000 were injured in incidents involving school buses. Remind children about these safety tips.

--Get to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is to arrive.

--Always stand five steps back from the curb. When lining up, make a line away from the street.

--Never walk behind the bus.

--Only cross the street at the crosswalk or intersection after the bus leaves.

--If children drop an item near the bus, tell the driver before picking it up. Make sure that the bus driver knows where you are at all times.

Parents should remind their children about the inherent risks associated with going to school and coming home safely. Talk to children about coming straight home when they get off the bus so parents will know they made it home from school safely.

They should also make a conscious effort to be aware of the small children trying to make it to their destination. Parents who will be picking up and dropping off their child should watch for children darting out from between cars or behind bushes and shrubs.

(Courtesy of DODDS)



photo by Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas

Students line up Tuesday morning at Yokota West Elementary School for opening day.

YWES welcomes new faces

By Cheryl Johnson

Yokota West Elementary School

We are very excited to start the 2005-2006 school year at Yokota West Elementary School and happy to welcome the following professionals to our team:

Rosalyn Thompson comes to us from Okinawa, Japan to teach second grade. Her hometown is San Antonio, Texas, and she is newly married.

Omalee Ramirez will be returning to Yokota West this year to teach third grade after taking a year off to take care of her newborn, Emma.

Wanda Robinson-Caton just moved to Yokota from Bahrain. She is here with her two daughters and husband who is retired Navy. She will be teaching third grade.

Stephanie Bowers will be teaching fourth grade. Her hometown is Muskegee, Oklahoma, and she is here in Yokota with her husband and two children.

Sara Schmidt, originally from Iowa, has experience teaching upper elementary grades in New York City and international schools in Tokyo. She will be teaching fifth grade.

SeinDee Konieczny will be our new literacy support specialist. She will be helping students and teachers with reading instruction. Her hometown is Seattle, Washington, yet she is coming to us from Korea. She is also newly married.

Millicent Dixon is not new to Yokota or Yokota West, but she is moving into a new job. She will work this year as our hearing-impaired specialist. Her hometown is Hampton, Virginia, and she is here with her dog, Eddie.

Dawn Paule is from Honolulu, Hawaii. She will be working as a part-time counselor this year. She is here in Yokota with her husband and two daughters.

As always, parents and community members continue to be a vital part of our school. We welcome volunteers in the classrooms, in the library, on the school improvement team, on the school advisory committee, and the booster club (Friends of Yokota West Elementary). The Booster Club actively supports our school programs, sponsors monthly family nights, runs the school store, and coordinates two book fairs annually.

Please contact the school at 225-7611 if you would like to volunteer.

YEES: school year to include new programs, volunteer help

By Lillian Hiyama

Yokota East Elementary School

Welcome to Yokota East Elementary School: "A Great School in a Great Community" and Home of Panda Pride!

I am proud to begin my fourth year as principal. I also served four years as assistant principal from 1993-1997 here.

John Stroup, assistant principal, begins his first year here. He has spent the past six years as the assistant principal at Iwakuni.

One new member will join the YEES staff. Anne Pagel is our school nurse. Before joining our staff, Mrs. Pagel spent many hours volunteering and substituting here.

Our School Improvement Process will continue to focus on reading and writing skills. We want all students to improve the ability to read and comprehend across the curriculum, and improve the quality of written expression also.

Mathematics and science will be areas of focus at Yokota East Elementary School. This year the school will embark upon Department of Defense Education Activity Science Implementation. New texts and numerous hands-on materials will be a part of the exciting program. YEES intends to support math and science exploration through teacher professional development and student expectations that address DoDEA math and science standards.

The DoDEA theme, Math Matters, continues to be a focal point of staff research and implementation.

Yokota East Elementary will be the Japan District site of a pilot program, DIBELS, in conjunction with Wireless Generation software, for kindergarten to second-grade teachers to support assessment of early literacy skills in young children. The Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills measures

critical skills for reading success. The project will help teachers locate, monitor, and intervene with students.

Speaking of technology, DoDEA has initiated I-Safe, in all its schools. The program provides internet safety education.

Our students participate in safety patrol, chorus, instrumental band, yearbook, student council, chess club and other after school activities.

YEES is proud to partner with the 374th Communications Squadron. Men and women of the 374th Communications Squadron have served as reading buddies as well as assisting with manpower needs. The partnership appears to have increased student interest in reading at home and in school according to some students' experiences.

The 374th Maintenance Operations Squadron and Yokota's Airman Leadership School partnership has given a helping hand also for manpower needs and as reading buddies.

The University of Maryland and University of Phoenix works to support student teaching and observation experiences to prospective teachers. Those university students in education have been a visible presence through volunteering in classrooms to assist the regular education teacher while gaining valuable insight and understanding.

Yokota East Elementary School has been a training ground for students from University of Tokyo. Student teachers practice their craft in the fourth and fifth grade classrooms in preparation for teaching abroad.

There are many opportunities to become involved in making a good thing better. Please come by the school office or call us at 225-5504 and see what you can do to improve the quality of school life at Yokota East Elementary.

Parents and friends can learn more by visiting <http://pandanet.yees.pac.dodea.edu>.

Middle school announces open house, auction

From more teachers to annual photo day, base students anticipate what year will bring

Yokota Middle School is pleased to welcome four new employees:

Gordon Giannotti, special education, and English as second language teacher.

Marilou Veillard, seventh and eighth grade math teacher.

Monica Richardson, seventh and eighth grade science teacher.

Josh Dane, administrative technologist.

Yokota Middle School Parent-Teacher Organization will be sponsoring an Asian antiques and collectibles auction Sept. 24 from

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The PTO will also sponsor a rug sale Oct. 29 and 30 in the school's cafeteria. Proceeds will benefit PTO activities.

Yokota Middle School will be holding back-to-school open house Sept. 22 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Parents and students are invited to meet the friendly school staff and learn about what is in store for students this year. Our teachers are eager to meet and talk with parents.

School photos are scheduled for Sept. 6 and 7. Teachers will pass on information to students

prior to the annual photo day.

Volunteers are needed to support our after school tutoring program every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Yokota Middle School Media center.

For additional information, please call Yokota Middle School at 225-9671.

We deeply appreciate all of the support provided by our base community, especially Col. Alexander for helping us with scheduling employee training.


(Courtesy of Yokota Middle School)



photo by Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas

Students in Yokota Middle School's seventh grade get a lesson in language arts Tuesday afternoon. It was the students first day back after a three-month summer vacation. The middle school offers numerous classes and electives such as Japanese or Spanish language studies, multimedia arts classes, technologies and science classes and much more to its students.

Panthers on
the prowl ...



for #6

photo by Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas

Japan Football League champions every year since 1999. Rising Sun Bowl dominators from 2000 to 2004. Kanto Plain Football champions since 1999. To say they put up a fight is an understatement. They are their only competition. This year they are looking to take it all – for the sixth time in a row. Come out and cheer the Yokota High School Panthers as they set their sights on the prize again. Leading the team toward victory is the coaching staff: Tim Pujol, Matt Grant, Charlie Capps, Joe Howell, Brian Kitts, Steve Sanchez, Al Morton and Glen Shimabukuro

2005 Yokota High School Panthers football games

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Today	Zama Trojans	Yokota Bonk Field	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 9	BYE	BYE	BYE
Sept. 16	Kinnick Red Devils	Yokota Bonk Field	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 23	BYE	BYE	BYE
Sept. 30	Edgren Eagles	Misawa	TBD
Oct. 7	Zama Trojans	Camp Zama	7 p.m.
Oct. 15	ASIJ Mustangs	ASIJ Mustang Valley	1 p.m.
Oct. 21	Edgren Eagles	Yokota Bonk Field	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 28	Kinnick Red Devils	Yokosuka Berkey Field	7 p.m.
Nov. 5	Seoul American Falcons	Collier Field	TBD
Nov. 12	To be determined	TBD	TBD

Wing commander offers words of wisdom for year to Yokota High School students

By Col. Scott Goodwin
374th Airlift Wing commander

First of all, welcome back students, teachers and parents!

I hope you enjoyed a great summer break here in Japan, back in the United States or in another foreign land.

This week I took the opportunity to share my thoughts and expectations as the installation commander with you as you begin a new school year at Yokota High School.

It goes without saying that most of you are focused, dedicated, top notch students who excel in academics, athletics, the arts, or in some cases, all of these and more areas. Many of you have set your sights on attending college, learning a specific trade, enlisting in the military or applying for a military service academy, or pursuing your lifelong dream—all of which are commendable and the entire community wants to see you succeed.

Whether you are entering or nearing completion of your high school years here at Yokota, please remember you are all young adults. More than half of you drive a car or have part-time jobs. One-fourth of you can or soon will be able to vote.

It's important for me to stress that with adulthood comes greater privileges and greater responsibilities. I'm certain that more than 90 percent of you completely understand this. It's the 10 percent of you who don't, that need a little encouragement to reevaluate your priorities and get things back on track.

Last year, Yokota High School encountered more than 120 incidents of student misconduct, which ranged from curfew violations to bomb threats, and underage drinking to theft. An astounding statistic that you may not be familiar with was that we had 54 cases of vandalism. This type of behavior is completely unacceptable.

Again, I'm pretty certain that it was the 10 percent who caused 100 percent of these problems. For those of you who choose to continue this type of misconduct there will be

consequences for your actions. And I'm sure most of you are well aware that some students last year didn't graduate or proceed to the next grade due to the poor choices they made. We even had a tragic death of a recently graduated student.

Let's not let this happen again this year. High school should be one of the best times of your life. If you need to, help a friend who's gone astray to get their priorities straight. Or if you feel you need help, please see a guidance counselor, a friend or a teacher who will lend you an ear or provide you with the tools you need to succeed.

Let's do what ever it takes to make Yokota High School a great place to be. This is your high school, and this is your community—take ownership of it, and help me make Yokota a great and safe place to live!

“Let’s make Yokota High School a great place to be. This is your high school, this is your base, and this is your community – take ownership of it and help me make Yokota a great and safe place to live!”

Col. Scott Goodwin
374th Airlift Wing commander

Get into Project Graduation

Yokota High School wants the graduating class to have its cake and eat it too.

The school is hosting its first Project Graduation, an all-night party for seniors that is free of alcohol and drugs. The program is part of a nation-wide organization that makes graduation night its cause.

The school's committee will be fundraising throughout the school year to buy big-ticket prizes, food, drinks and more for the party. Games, live bands, scholarships and more will also be featured at the party.

The committee can accept donations from other private organizations and individuals. Interested community members can also volunteer to help students raise money.

A town hall meeting is scheduled for Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. at the Officers' Club. All parents of seniors and community leaders are encouraged to attend to learn more about Project Graduation.

Project Graduation began 20 years ago when 18 student lives were lost in alcohol- and drug-related incidents following graduation night. The initial Project Graduation program was a run-away success and high schools across the United States have adopted the program throughout the years that followed.

This is the first time Yokota High School has taken on Project Graduation. The committee is seeking 100 percent student participation in the Project Graduation events this year.

For more information, call Chas Kelker at 227-9931.
(Courtesy of Yokota High School Project Graduation Committee)

Off base

National Museum of Western Art special exhibition: The museum is displaying about 200 items from the Dresden National Museum in Germany through Sept. 19. It is open 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily and located at the JR Yamanote Line, Ueno Station, Ko-en exit.

Japan Soccer Museum: The museum is hosting a special "J-League Amazing 30" exhibition daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Oct. 10. Famous players' items will be displayed along with messages from the players. It is located near the JR Chou/Sobu Line, Ochanomizu Station.

Camp Tachikawa open house: The camp is hosting a disaster prevention fair where numerous Japanese emergency services will demonstrate their capabilities Oct. 16. It is located at the Tachikawa Fire station, which can be reached by taking a bus from the JR Chou/Ome Line's Tachikawa Station.

On base

Movies

Friday – *Valiant*, G, 7 p.m.; *Dark Water*, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday – *Valiant*, G, 2 p.m.; *Rebound*, PG, 7 p.m.; *Dark Water*, PG-13, 9:30 p.m. (adults-only showing)

Sunday – *Valiant*, G, 2 p.m.; *Rebound*, PG, 7 p.m.

Monday – *Valiant*, G, 7 p.m.

Tuesday – *Dark Water*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Wednesday – *Valiant*, G, 2 p.m.

Thursday – *High Tension*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

All movies and showtimes are subject to change without notice. Call 225-8708.

Education

The following Excelsior College Extended Response exams are offered Oct. 5 through the Base Training and Education Center: History of Nazi Germany; English Composition; American Dream; and Religions of the World. The

cost is \$280 per exam for non-military members. Register no later than today. Call 225-7337.

Air Force spouse tuition assistance applications are available Tuesday for Term II. Applications must be returned by Sept. 23. Call Base Training and Education Services at 225-7337.

The Automotive Service Excellence exam is offered Nov. 15, 16 and 17 at BTES. Interested community members must register in person in Bldg. 316 no later than Sept. 1 to take the exam. Call 225-7337.

9/11 remembrance

Col. Scott Goodwin, 374th Airlift Wing commander, will host a remembrance ceremony at the traditional chapel Sept. 9 at 10 a.m. The community is invited to attend.

Volunteers needed

The Yokota Middle School Parent-Teacher Organization* needs volunteers to help set-up and breakdown its fall auction at the school's gymnasium Sept. 23 through 25. Call 225-9671.

The Yokota Officers' Spouses Club* is seeking volunteers to help during the club's annual fall bazaar held at Hangar 15. E-mail YOSCBazaarVolunteer@yahoo.com.

Post office

The base post office will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. today and will be open as normal Saturday.

Contest

The Air Force's premier entertainment group, Tops In Blue, is hosting a "Share The Music" contest through the end of October. Prizes include iPods and more. Visit <http://www.topsinblue.com>.

Committee

The Yokota High School Project Graduation Committee* is looking to be adopted by a base organization. Interested units who would like to partner up with the committee can call 227-9931.

Visitor care

The base hospital cannot see patients who do not have a valid military I.D. card except in life-saving emergency circumstances. For details about medical care for both military and non-military members here, call 225-6478.

MSA closure

The munitions storage area is closed Tuesday to Sept. 9 for its annual inventory.

Holiday parties

The Enlisted and Officers' Clubs will be holding its official holiday party drawing this year Sept. 7 beginning at 3 p.m. in the Officers' Club Samurai Lounge. One member of a unit must be present during the drawing. Call 225-8526.

Commissary

The base commissary is open Monday for the community's shopping convenience.

Enlisted Club

The Enlisted Club has extended the hours of the Spectrum and Shogun Lounges to Fridays from 6:30 p.m. to 4 a.m., and Saturdays from 6:30 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Meeting

The Yokota's chapter of Toastmasters International* meets at the base library every second and fourth Friday from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. The chapter helps members conquer their fears of public speaking.

Kanto Shuttle

The 374th Services Division is now providing a shuttle between the Kanto Lodge and AMC terminal six hours before departures and as required after arrivals.

Tama Express

A services shuttle will offer weekend routes to Tama Hills beginning Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m. Roundtrip tickets can be purchased at the Yujo Recreation Center for \$5 per person. Call 225-7720.

Samurai Warrior



of the Week



Tech. Sgt. Shawn Truax

Tech. Sgt. Shawn Truax, 374th Civil Engineer Squadron, is this week's Samurai Warrior of the Week for exhibiting the Bushido qualities of sympathy toward all people, courage, and a sense of justice and honesty.

He coaches basketball for the Summer Slam Basketball Contest, youth football, and volunteers for the Special Olympics. As a unit deployment manager, he has helped assist in deploying 543 people on 11 deployments in the last two years here. He maintains accountability for 30 unit-type code teams, 40 tons of cargo valued at \$500,000, and 300 mobility folders. Sergeant Truax is from Edinburg, Illinois, and is a big sports fan. He enjoys playing basketball, running, and spending time with his daughter.

Correction

In the Aug. 25 edition's "Wing leadership answers enlisted call questions," the article incorrectly cites that a children's playroom will be available in the fitness center in February 2006. The playroom will actually open in February or March 2007.

Chapel events

The Protestant Women of the Chapel* is celebrating its 50th anniversary with weekly Bible studies and monthly events. A kick-off will be held Thursday at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the Traditional Chapel. Bible studies are held Thursdays at 9 a.m. at the Traditional Chapel, and Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the base library. Call 225-7009.

The Protestant Youth of the Chapel* hold a high school youth group every Monday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the building behind the main chapel. A junior high school youth group is held every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. behind the main chapel. Call 225-7009.

The Protestant Singles of the

Chapel* is beginning a study about evolution, creationism, and science taught by Adam White from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the building behind the main chapel. All base singles are invited to attend. Free food and music are also offered. Call 225-7009.

Chapel Schedule

Traditional (West) Chapel

Catholic: Mass, Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Protestant: Traditional service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Liturgical/Lutheran service Sundays at 6:30 p.m.; Korean service, Sundays at 2 p.m.

Contemporary (East) Chapel

Protestant: Gospel service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Contemporary service, Sundays at 5 p.m.

Call 225-7009.

PO disclaimer

An asterisk (*) denotes a private organization. Private organizations are not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and have no governmental status.

AD

Tricare unveils new healthcare options

Getting medical care for visitors

By William Charron
Tricare Pacific Service Center

When family and friends are making that trek to visit community members here, they should consider their medical insurance options well before even purchasing airline tickets.

Visitors who do not have a military identification card cannot be seen at military treatment facilities except in life-saving circumstances. Even then the patient must pay for the services they receive. It is suggested for visiting family and friends to ensure that they have healthcare insurance that covers them while overseas.

People with military identification cards can be seen at any military base hospital, however they will be seen on a space-available basis only. If they cannot receive care at the base hospital they should follow the travel rules of their enrollment region and seek off-base care.

When seeking off-base care, Tricare beneficiaries must have a referral letter from the 374th Medical Group. If non-emergency care is received without a referral, the Tricare point-of-service option will apply. The cost of receiving off-base care under the POS option is 50 percent of the Tricare allowable charge plus any additional charges above the Tricare allowable charge and an annual deductible of \$300 for individuals or \$600 for families.

Tricare will generally cover emergency care with or without a referral.

For more information about Tricare, traveling with Tricare coverage, receiving care at a military treatment facility, call the Tricare Pacific Service Center at 225-6478.

Qualified disabled beneficiaries can apply for additional care, supplies

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFPN) – Tricare's Extended Care Health Option will be available for beneficiaries of active-duty family members with defined qualifying conditions Sept. 1.

Beneficiaries currently receiving care through the Program for Persons with Disabilities and not qualified for ECHO will continue care through Tricare program options.

This new program will deliver financial assistance and additional benefits, including supplies and services, beyond those available within Tricare Prime, Tricare Standard or Tricare Extra. The benefit also increases the monthly government cost share from \$1,000 to \$2,500 per eligible family member. Additionally, homebound beneficiaries may qualify for extended in-home health care.

Active-duty family members with one of the following conditions may qualify for the benefits:

--Moderate or severe mental retardation.

--A serious physical disability.

--An extraordinary physical or psychological condition of such complexity that the beneficiary is homebound.

Multiple disabilities involving two or more separate body systems may result in a qualifying condition determination.

The health option requires all eligible beneficiaries to enroll in the exceptional family member program of their sponsors' military service and to register with their regional contractor or Overseas Tricare Area Office to obtain ECHO benefit authorization.

To complete exceptional family member program enrollment, eligible beneficiaries must obtain a DD form 2792, medical summary, and/or DD form 2792-1, special education/early intervention summary, and submit the forms to their special needs coordinator for processing.

Upon completion of enrollment, the sponsor must then show proof of enrollment to the regional contractor for registration into the ECHO program. The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System will then be updated to indicate the beneficiary is eligible.

Beneficiaries must use public funds or programs first to the extent they are available and adequate for ECHO benefits related to training, rehabilitation, special education, assistive technology devices, institutional care in private, nonprofit, public, state institutions or other medical facilities and if appropriate, transportation to and from such institutions and facilities.

For more information about ECHO benefits, eligibility requirements, updates, and EFMP registration, beneficiaries may refer to the ECHO Fact Sheet, or visit the Tricare Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/echo>.

Bodybuilders line up for annual competition at Taiyo

By Senior Master Sgt. Michael Atkinson
374th Airlift Wing Inspector General office

They came from down the street, from Tokyo and further to compete in the annual bodybuilding championship here.

Dozens of participants came hopeful to the initial competition but only the select few made it to finals Sunday afternoon.

This year's winners in the annual Central Japan Bodybuilding Championships are:

⇒ **Hiroshi Yoshikawa**, of Nagoya, as the overall champion.

⇒ **Yasunobu Komori**, of Tokyo, in the masters' category.

⇒ **James Wragg**, as the heavy-weight champion.

⇒ **Kengo Jikumaru**, of Wakayama, in the light heavy-weight category.

⇒ **Hiroshi Yoshikawa**, of Nagoya, as the middle-weight champion.

⇒ **Hirofumi Okajima**, in the light-weight category.

The crowd was also treated to two guest posers during the competition. International Federation of Bodybuilding professional Kris Dim, who is considered the best Asia bodybuilder of all-time, and Ms. Yuko Kato.

This is the seventh year the base has hosted the competition.



photo by Senior Master Sgt. Michael Atkinson

The top ten competitors in the 7th Annual Central Japan Bodybuilding Championships pose each other down in the final moments of the event. The overall champion was Hiroshi Yoshikawa of Nagoya. Mr. Yoshikawa also won in the middle-weight category. Guest posers included Kris Dim and Ms. Yuko Kato.

“Quotes” & Things

*“The doctors x-rayed
my head and found
nothing.”*

Dizzy Dean

Golf: The Tama Hills Golf Club Championship is Sept. 24 and 25, and Oct. 1 and 2. The cost is \$65 and includes cart rental, four lunches, prize drawings and more. Call 225-8815.

Dog Days of Summer: The Sakana outdoor pool is hosting its annual Dog Days of Summer Monday. Servicemembers, civilians, and their dogs are invited to enjoy this final day for the pool's season. Call 225-7246.

Swim team: The Yokota Stingrays swim team is looking for new members. Call the Natatorium at 225-6133.

Outdoor Rec: The base outdoor recreation center is offering the following trips: introduction to paragliding at Tsukiyono Grand Volee Sept. 10; overnight mountain bike trip in the central Alps Sept. 17 and 18; rock climbing at Mt. Takatori Sept. 21; Sabiki-style ocean fishing at Odawara's Sagami Bay Sept. 24; advanced lure fishing at Odawara's Sagami Bay Sept. 24; and downhill mountain biking at Mt. Takamine Sept. 28. Call 225-4552.

Aero Club: The club offers sight-seeing flights, ground school and flying lessons all with certified professionals. The club is conducting its monthly safety meeting Sept. 10 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Enlisted Club. Call 225-8988.

Bowling: Tomodachi Lanes will be closed from Sept. 30 until the new bowling facility opens in January 2006. Call 225-7191.

Just another day in the park?



photo by Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas

Members of local Society for Creative Anachronism chapters do battle at the park by Sakura Shell Saturday. Approximately 30 members from throughout the Kanto Plain area participated in the demonstrations. SCA members can choose a character from the fall of Rome to the mid-1700s, and participate in activities in their realm. The SCA began in Berkeley, California in the mid-1960s as a college project and has since grown to an international organization with more than 30,000 in dozens of countries.

Base community gets ‘finatical’ about SCUBA diving

By Master Sgt. Dominique Brown
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

More than 70% of the earth's surface is covered with water. Although underwater exploration using air source devices has been around since the 1700's, it wasn't an activity available for the average person until the 1960's.

Now, through advancements in technology, exploring the underwater world is attainable for anyone in this the popular sport known today as SCUBA (Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus) diving.

“Finatics” is Yokota Air Base's SCUBA diving club which travels throughout Japan and the Pacific Region. Lt. Col. William Vickers, USFJ/J4, Chief of Construction Branch, and president of “Finatics,” said, “The club offers the whole spectrum of dive experiences.”

The club's diving season is from May through October and includes scenic dive locations to the Izu Peninsula, Okinawa, Guam, Thailand

and Saipan “Members from the club go diving a couple weekends a month,” said Colonel Vickers, who is also one of two certified dive instructors in the club.

The 40-member club offers classes and sponsors events here. The next upcoming event is a free “Try Dive” session scheduled for Saturday at the Natatorium from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“This is a chance to see how enjoyable SCUBA diving is but in a controlled environment without the cost for initial dive certification,” explained the colonel.

The next basic open water course is tentatively scheduled for late September. This course takes two full weekends to complete.

The first weekend comprises of classroom and pool sessions that teach students the technical aspects of diving and how to use the scuba gear. The second weekend of the course must be completed in an open body of water such as a lake or ocean. Students must complete

four supervised dives in water 20-60 feet deep utilizing the lessons learned in the pool sessions.

“It's like going into a different world,” said Andy Lawrence, one of eight students in a initial diving class held last weekend.

“It doesn't feel normal breathing underwater at first, but it is awesome and the training is really

good,” added the novice diver, whose 12-year-old daughter talked him in to taking the course.

The cost of the initial course is \$290 for the class, diving equipment and books. Students also pay for travel expenses to the dive sight. For more information, call 227-2545 or visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/yokotafinatics/>.



photo by Master Sgt. Dominique Brown

Students in the basic open water course watch instructor Lt. Col. William Vickers (top left) as he demonstrates how a buoyancy control device vest can keep SCUBA divers afloat when inflated.

AD